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Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2022 6:05 PM
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Subject: Strategic Update - 2022 02 02

STRATEGIC UPDATES FOR DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL

The information in this report is current to 2022-02-02 at 1730 hours.

Opposition to Public Health Measures

- No new incidents to report.

ASSESSMENT

Currently, there is no specific, identified threat and monitoring remains attuned to where ideologically motivated extremism may manifest among participants in or supporters of opposition activities.

Freedom Convoy 2022

- Current crowds in Ottawa are being reported as small and there are minimal people on Parliament Hill or surrounding streets. Events during the day appeared loosely organized and improvisational. Downtown Ottawa remains accessible only by foot. A small counter-protest of around 10 people occurred near Parliament Hill and Wellington Street.
- The Ottawa Police Service has advised that members of an anti-government, quasi-sovereigntist group that has opposed public health measures in Quebec is blocking major intersections in the vicinity of the blockade. The group is being uncooperative with police. Police reporting indicates that members may have been invited by event participants to provide security, and that the group is not known to be violent.
- Police reporting indicates some truckers are discussing travelling to Toronto from Ottawa. No further details are available.
- Advertising material for a "Convoy for Freedom Toronto" has circulated on social media and has subsequently been widely reported by local media. The event is scheduled to commence at 1000 hours and arrive at Queen's Park at 1200 hours on February 5, 2022. Toronto Police Service, OPP Queen's Park Bureau and the Legislative Protective Service are aware and engaged.
 - NOTE: Social media indicates a potential connection between the organizer noted for the "Convoy for Freedom Toronto" event, a conspiracy theorist long associated with anti-vaccine and anti-mandate activities, and a road captain affiliated with Freedom Convoy 2022. Any role for each individual or group is not known; there was no previously known connection between these groups and individuals. These may be opportunistic, social media-based connections to increase the number of participants in protest activity in the short term.

- Media reporting indicates that the convoy of tractor-trailers that have been blocking both sides of a border crossing in Alberta may have involved a protestor ramming a police vehicle and a possible assault against a police officer during attempts at enforcement action on February 1, 2022.
- Open source information indicates reporting indicates a well-known QAnon-endorsed Canadian conspiracy theorist has entered Ontario today after departing Victoria, B.C. earlier this week. A schedule shared by the conspiracy theorist indicates they intend to arrive in Ottawa with their convoy on February 3, 2022. The conspiracy theorist's social media account indicates they have raised \$21,000 for their convoy.
- Police reporting notes the conspiracy theorist long associated with anti-vaccine and anti-mandate activities may have arrived in Ottawa. This is the same conspiracy theorist linked in social media to the "Convoy for Freedom Toronto". The conspiracy theorist earlier indicated they and their supporters will be a second wave in Ottawa. This conspiracy theorist was criminally charged by Toronto Police Service in May 2021 with uttering death threats, assaulting a peace officer with a weapon, and one count of dangerous operation of a conveyance in relation to the conspiracy theorist's alleged threats against the Premier and actions to evade law enforcement.
- Social media messaging has suggested that another convoy of trucks is travelling from Alberta to Ottawa. No further details are currently available.
- The GoFundMe account supporting the Freedom Convoy amounts to \$10 million. The "ADOPT A TRUCKER" fundraiser had raised almost \$163,000 as of yesterday.

ASSESSMENT

At this juncture, there is no concrete, specific, or credible threat with regard to the Freedom Convoy and Operation BearHug 2.0 protest activity. However, the possibility that a lone actor or group of individuals could enact a physical threat with little or no warning cannot be excluded.

It is unknown whether any truck convoys are travelling to Ottawa or points in Quebec from western Canada or from the United States. All of the available information is based on social media. It is of unknown reliability and remains unconfirmed by any first-hand observations or police reporting. It is likely that blockades, including border blockades, and related protests will occur organically and with little or no warning in communities across the province. Establishing blockades or conducting 'slow rolls' locally may be rapidly mobilized and may be more effective in placing additional pressures on authorities than joining the protest in Ottawa.

The available information suggests that counter-protests may occur as a result of the ongoing blockade in Ottawa and solidarity protests elsewhere. The potential for conflict between protestors and counter-protestors may increase the potential threat to public safety and place strain on local police resources.

The incident at the blockade in Coutts, Alberta and supportive social media messaging around it demonstrates the degree to which some truck drivers and supporters may be willing to defy the authorities and the potential officer safety risks currently present.

This protest in Ottawa remains fluid and potentially volatile. Social media messaging from varied sources is distorting the nature of police presence and activities at the protest, which increases the potential safety risks. There does not appear to be any planned schedule of events or cohesive strategic plan for the protest other than to remain in place long term. Protest organizers appear to be employing a degree of improvisation, which may afford them agility that allows them to mobilize protestors rapidly and on an ad hoc basis. Events on the ground are likely to be unpredictable.

The convoys and rally on Parliament Hill has so far not materialized into a significant public safety threat or major incident beyond traffic management issues. Reported incidents of harassment and vandalism garnered significant media attention over the weekend and have drawn condemnation from public figures within and outside the trucking community. Police of jurisdiction are investigating instances where criminal harassment, trespass or vandalism are believed to have occurred.

Planned Events

February 3, 2022

- **North Bay:** Health Unit Protest to Drop All Mandates – (0900 hours)

February 4, 2022

- **Toronto** – Convoy Protest – Tractor Meet, Queens Park (1300 hours)

February 5, 2022

- **Ottawa:** Freedom Dance Party – Parliament Hill (1200 -1500 hours)
- **Toronto:** Convoy Protest – meeting points at 1000 hours as follows:
Orangeville – 95 First Street;
 - Vaughan Mills;
 - Scarborough Town Centre;
 - Yorkdale Mall;
 - Sherway Gardens;
 - Square One;
 - Oakville – Tim Hortons, HWY 403 and Dundas
- **Mississauga:** Freedom Convoy Counter-Demonstration – Celebration Square (no further details)
- **Norfolk County: Tractor Convoy (four routes) – Destination Simcoe**
 - Route A: **Dunnville** (1000 hours) through Selkirk, Fisherville, Nelles Corners to Cayuga (1130 hours)
 - Route B: **Cayuga** (1200 hours) through Jarvis to Simcoe (1300 hours)
 - Route C: **Langton** (1000 hours) to Port Rowan ending in Simcoe (1200 hours)
 - Route D: **Tillsonburg** (1000 hours) through Delhi and Waterford to Simcoe (1200 hours)

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